

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 310647
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IO-14 USIA-15
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 310647

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: FAO REQUEST FOR HARD FIBERS INFORMATION

REF: ROME 4738

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO LAMADE, FAO
SECRETARIAT:

A. DATA ARE NOT AVAILABLE WITH RESPECT TO QUESTIONS
POSED IN PARAGRAPHS 3(C), 3(E), 3(F) AND 3(G) OF REFTEL.

AND THERE ARE NO PUBLISHED STATISTICS ON THE REMAINING
QUESTIONS. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED INFOR-
MALLY FROM TRADE SOURCES:

B. THE CURRENT PRICE PER BALE (38-40 LBS) FOR IN SEASON
DELIVERY, C.I.F. PORTS IS IN THE RANGE OF 9.80 DOLLARS
TO 10.25 DOLLARS, CASH AGAINST SHIPPING DOCUMENTS.
THERE IS NO U.S. IMPORT DTY ON IMPORTED SISAL HARVEST
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TWINE. THE CASH PRICE PER COMPARABLE BALE OF DOMESTICALLY
PRODUCED TWINE IS 11.80 DOLLARS, EX-FACTORY.

C. THE CASH PRICE PER BALE OF 20 LBS. OF POLYPROPYLENE
HARVEST TWINE IS FROM 9.25 DOLLARS TO 9.50 DOLLARS,
EX-FACTORY BASIS.

D. IN GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WHERE SISAL TWINE ENJOYS CONSIDERABLE PREFERENCE BY FARMERS (SEE 3 H), THE PRICE PREMIUM IS QUITE HIGH. IN OTHER AREAS, THERE IS NO PREMIUM FOR SISAL TWINE, AND IN FACT, THERE MAY BE A SLIGHT PREMIUM FOR SYNTHETIC TWINE.

E. IN GENERAL, SISAL TWINE ENJOYS A CONSIDERABLE PREFERENCE ON THE PART OF CONSUMERS IN THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN UNITED STATES. THE PRINCIPAL MARKET FOR POLYPROPYLENE HARVEST TWINE HAS BEEN MAINLY IN THE MID AND FAR WESTERN UNITED STATES WHERE THE OUTSIDE STORAGE OF HAY MAY GIVE SYNTHETIC TWINE AN END-USE ADVANTAGE OVER NATURAL TWINE BECAUSE OF ITS ABILITY TO HOLD UP IN MOIST CONDITIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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